GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2870
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2000
AMENDMENT IN FOOD ADULTERATION ACT
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is lacuna in these laws which are unduly benefiting manufacturers and the real adulterators; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggested amendments inter-alia, include the following: Change in the title of the Act; Amendments of certain definitions given in the Act; Making provisions for giving a counterpart of the sample to the vendor; Rationalization of penal provisions commensurate with the gravity of the offence etc.,

(c)&(d) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 was enacted with the objective of ensuring pure and wholesome food to the consumers. This Act was amended thrice in 1964, 1976 and 1986 for removing loopholes and making the punishment more stringent. Amendment of the statute is an ongoing process, which is resorted to from time to time to make the provisions more effective in keeping with the emerging requirements/challenges. A Departmental group of officers drawn from concerned Ministries/Departments and some of the State Governments has been set up to review the PFA Act.The first meeting of the Group was held on 1-2nd March, 2000, in which various stakeholders and interest groups presented their views/suggestions on amendment of certain specific provisions of the PFA law as it exists today.